Middle School Social Studies 1st Quarter



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**Course Overview:**

Welcome! This year we will be investigating Geography and World History. During the first quarter we will be focusing on geography. Using the Geography Alive! Regions and People Curriculum, we will develop and expand on foundational mapping skills, read and analyze six types of thematic maps that geographers use to represent the world, and create and identify the differences between urban/suburban/rural geography; with an emphasis on Minnesota geography. You will see how maps can illustrate information about people and places on Earth. You will then put these tools to use in your own study of geography by creating a map of the area in which you live.

**Mapping**

**and**

**Urban/suburban**

**/rural**

**Geography**

**Essential Questions:**

How do geographers show information on maps?

Why do geographers use a variety of maps to represent the world?

What is the difference between urban/suburban/rural geography?

**Minnesota Standards:**

* The student will identify and locate major physical and cultural features that played an important role in the history of Minnesota.
* The student will make and use maps to acquire, process, and report on the spatial organization of people and places on Earth.
* The student will identify physical characteristics of places and use this knowledge to define regions, their relationships among regions, and their patterns of change.
* The student will give examples of physical systems and describe their role in shaping life on Earth.
* The student will give examples that demonstrate how people are connected to each other and the environment.
* The student will demonstrate how various regional frameworks are used to analyze the variation in physical environment.
* The student will use maps, globes, geographic information systems and other sources of information to analyze the natures of places at a variety of scales.

*We are looking forward to meeting and getting to know you this year! This is a very exciting time in which we are thrilled to begin working with you and your student. We want you both to have a positive and enriching experience at Lionsgate Academy. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us! With communication comes success!*

High School Social Studies 1st Quarter



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**Course Overview:**

Welcome! This year we will be United States History from the Civil War to the present time. During the first quarter we will develop and expand on the establishment and creation of the American Republic and on industrialism and reform. Using the History Alive! Pursuing American Ideals Curriculum, we will be focusing on the Civil War, Reconstruction, Change and Conflict in the American West and the Age of Innovation and Industry.

**Minnesota Standards:**

* The student will understand the foundation of the American government and nation.
* The student will demonstrate knowledge of the long- and short-term causes of the Civil War.
* The student will understand the course, character, and outcome of the Civil War.
* The student will demonstrate knowledge of the consequences of Civil War and Reconstruction.
* The student will analyze the process of westward expansion in the late 19th century.
* The student will describe and analyze the linked processes of industrialization and urbanization after 1870.

**Examples of learning activities:**

* [**Visual Discovery**](http://www.teachtci.com/forum/VisualDiscovery.aspx) - Students view, touch, interpret, and bring to life compelling images, turning what is a passive, teacher-centered activity – lecturing – into a dynamic, participative experience.
* [**Social Studies Skill Builder**](http://www.teachtci.com/forum/socstudskillbuilders.aspx) - This strategy turns the traditional, rote tasks usually associated with skill-based worksheets into more dynamic, interactive activities.
* [**Experiential Exercises**](http://www.teachtci.com/forum/experientialexercise.aspx) - These short, memorable activities make abstract ideas or remote events accessible and meaningful by tapping into intrapersonal and body-kinesthetic intelligences.
* ****[**Writing for Understanding**](http://www.teachtci.com/forum/writingforunderstanding.aspx) - Writing for Understanding activities give *all* learners, even those with lesser linguistic skills, something memorable to write about.
* [**Response Groups**](http://www.teachtci.com/forum/responsegroups.aspx) - This strategy helps students grapple with the ambiguities of issues in social sciences, recognize the complexity of historical events, and discuss the consequences of public policies.
* [**Problem Solving Groupwork**](http://www.teachtci.com/forum/psgroupwork.aspx) - This strategy teaches students the skills necessary to work together successfully in small groups, both in the classroom and later in life.

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